

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

41-1064

REPRODUCED FROM THE  
HOLDINGS OF THE  
TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

I disapprove, and am vetoing and filing with the Secretary of State Senate Bill 385. In my message to the Legislature on January 27, 1965 I stated that "any further disorderly multiplication of state-supported units of higher education will dangerously dilute our resources." The Committee on Education Beyond the High School included among the powers and functions of the proposed Coordinating Board the suggestion that the Board "recommend to the Legislature that, as a matter of policy, no junior college should be elevated to senior college status, but, if a senior college is needed, it shall be recommended by the Board." These observations are as valid today as they were at the times they were made.

This Bill authorizes what is essentially a hybrid higher educational institution - a senior college with a full range of vocational and vocational-technical programs. The concept of such an educational facility has merit. The degree, certificate and course offerings are subject under Section 2 to the approval of the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System, but Section 5 of Senate Bill 385 directs that vocational and vocational-technical courses shall be required of Permian State College. The mandatory language of Section 5 exempts these vocational courses from prior approval of the Coordinating Board and thus is in direct conflict with House Bill 1 creating the Board. No mention is made of the State Board of Vocational Education, which retains jurisdiction of vocational and vocational-technical education under House Bill 1.

Section 11 authorizes the Board of Regents to pledge certain fees and charges, including tuition, for the construction of buildings and facilities. No other higher educational institution is granted such unlimited authority to pledge tuition income to finance its building program.

Transfer of the assets of the Junior College District of Ector County is authorized under Section 6 "on or before August 1 following the date appropriations may be expended to effectuate the provisions of this Act." Section 18 authorizes Permian State College to commence operation as a public senior college on September 1, "following the date appropriations may be expended to effectuate the provisions of this Act." Giving effect to both these provisions could well mean that the earliest date upon which Permian State College could begin operations as a fully state-supported senior higher educational institution would be September 1, 1968.

Notwithstanding the technical inconsistencies which exist between the Bill's various provisions, establishment of additional fully state-supported institutions of higher education must be evaluated in terms of the needs of the entire State rather than those of a region or locality. Such determinations should be made without regard to the vitality or enthusiasm of any local community. The goal of excellence in education must have a higher priority than the economic advantages of any one geographical area. Effective coordination directed toward excellence requires restraint.

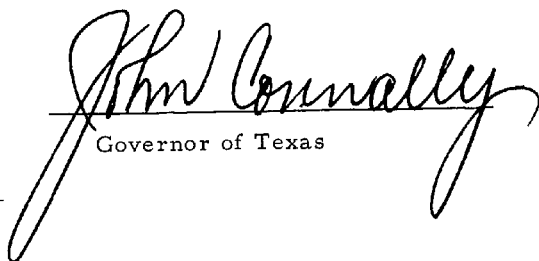
Today, 90 percent of all Texans reside within 100 miles of a fully state-supported senior college. There are 3 such institutions between 125 and 150 miles from Odessa. Texas must decide how far it shall go in providing an opportunity for its citizens to attend college within commuting distance.

Regardless of the membership of the Coordinating Board, that Board might well regard the passage of Senate Bill 385 as a legislative mandate that Odessa Junior College become a fully state-supported higher educational institution. In view of the duties and functions assigned the Board and the urgency of that assignment, I am unwilling to subject them to the pressures that will inevitably follow my signature on Senate Bill 385. My veto will not preclude Odessa Junior College from applying to the Coordinating Board for a change in classification and consideration prior to the next legislative session, nor should this veto be construed as in any way prejudicial to such consideration and determination.

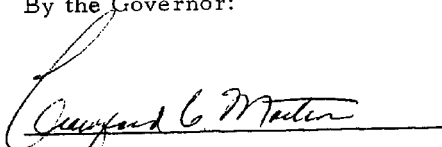
Senate Bill 385 was received in the Governor's Office on May 26, 1965,  
less than 10 days prior to the adjournment of the Regular Session of the 59th  
Legislature, and in accordance with Article IV, Section 14 of the Constitution  
of Texas, the Bill, together with this Proclamation, is filed with the Secretary  
of State.

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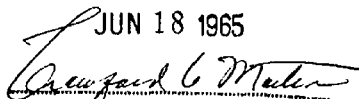
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I  
have hereunto signed my name  
officially and caused the seal of  
State to be affixed hereto at  
Austin this 18 day of June, 1965.

  
Governor of Texas

By the Governor:

  
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
4:30 O'CLOCK

JUN 18 1965  
  
Secretary of State